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Message Text

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61
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /091 W
---------- 079322
R 311051Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3100
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
USMISSION USUN NY
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJECT: FURTHER CONGRESS PARTY SESSION COMMENTS ON INDIAN DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY

REF: NEW DELHI 17363

1. MRS. GANDHI TOLD THE ALL-INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE'S SUBJECTS COMMITTEE IN CHANDIGARH DEC. 30 (SEE REFTEL FOR HER REMARKS ON FOREIGN POLICY AT THIS FORUM) THAT POVERTY COULD NOT BE ELIMINATED THROUGH THE CAPITALIST PATH AND THEREFORE INDIA WAS MOVING TOWARDS BUILDING "INDIAN SOCIALISM." SHE SAID THERE HAD BEEN RUMORS THAT LEFTIST POLICIES WERE BEING ABANDONED AND THERE WAS A TURN TOWARD THE "RIGHT." CERTAIN INSTRUMENTS OF POLICY MIGHT CHANGE, SHE SAID, BUT NOT THE BASIC POLICY OF ELIMINATING POVERTY BASED ON THE CONCEPTS OF SOCIALISM. THERE WAS NO DE-
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VIATION TO RIGHT OR LEFT; INDIA'S POLICIES CONTINUED TO BE

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DESCRIBED AS "LEFT OF CENTER."

2. FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN, WHO OVER THE WEEKEND HAD OFFERED CONGRESS DELEGATES SOME ENCOURAGING COMMENTS ON IMPROVING INDO-US RELATIONS (NEW DELHI 17292), FELL INTO LINE WITH THE STRONG CRITICISMS OF "FOREIGN INTERVENTION" BY THE PM IN REPEATED SPEECHES SINCE DEC. 29. SPEAKING TO THE SAME COMMITTEE AS THE PM ON DEC. 30, CHAVAN WARNED NON-ALIGNED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS TO BE VIGILANT AGAINST FORCES WHICH WERE AT WORK TO DILUTE, INFILTRATE AND DIVIDE THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. WHEN THESE FORCES SAW THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT NATIONS ASSERTING THEMSELVES THEY RESORTED TO ARMED INTERVENTION. CHAVAN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE "DANGEROUS AND POISONOUS" CAMPAIGN THAT INDIAN TROOPS WERE POISED AGAINST BANGLADESH HAD BEEN STARTED BY PAKISTAN BY MEANS OF BILATERAL TALKS. DESPITE WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN BANGLA-DESH, INDIA STOOD FOR BANGLA INTEGRITY, PROSPERITY AND INDEPENDENCE. CHAVAN IS REPORTED AS SAYING, "WE AS A DEVELOP-ING AND NON-ALIGNED NATION HAVE TO BE VERY VIGILANT AS DIVISIVE FORCES HAVE BEEN VERY ACTIVE AS IN ANGOLA AND THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES. ARE WE TO ALLOW THESE FORCES TO OOPERATE IN INDIA?" HE OBSERVED THAT BEFORE THE EMERGENCY, THESE FORCES ACTED WITH THE HELP OF LOCAL REACTIONARIES. IMPERIALIST AND INTERVENTIONIST FORCES HAD NOT ACCEPTED THEIR DEFEAT IN VIETNAM AND ELSEWHERE WITH GRACE BUT WERE TRYING TO REALIGN AND ASSERT THEMSELVES ELSEWHERE. DETENTE COULD BECOME UNIVERSAL ONLY WHEN IMPERIALIST AND COLONIAL FORCES LEARNT THEIR LESSIONS.

3. BOMBAY CONGRESS PARTY LEADER LEFTIST RANJI PATEL JOINED THE CHORUS IN MOVING THE FOREIGN POLICY RESOLUTION AND THE MEETING, NOTING THAT INDIA HAD FRIENDLY FEELINGS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BUT THEY SHOULD NOT RY TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFIARS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. AFTER DEFAT IN VIETNAM, IMPERIALIST FORCES HAD RESORTED TO TOPPLING DEMOCRATIC ELECTED GOVERNMENTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO SPREAD THEIR SPHERE OF INFLU-ENCE AND ENSURE THE CONTINUED SALE OF ARMS.CHILE AND EXTERNAL EFFORTS TO SPREAD DISCORD IN BANGLADESH WERE EXAMPLES. HE REPORTEDLY WARNED THE LDCS AGAINST CIA AND SAID THAT DURING THE 1974 RAILWAY STRIKE IN INDIA THERE HAD BEEN A "FOREIGN HAND."

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4. STEEL MINISTER (AND PRO-COMMUNIST) CHANDRAJIT YADAV SECONDED PATEL'S MOTION, AND CALLED FOR VIGILANCE AGAINST POSSIBLE MOVES TO ENLARGE THE AREA OF "DESTABILIZATION" IN THE SUBCONTINENT. HE ECHOED THE PM'S EARLIER COMMENTS ABOUT THE DANGERS FROM CERTAIN POWERS THAT DID NOT WANT TO SEE INDIA EMERGE STRONG, AND CALLED FOR COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

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5. PETROLEUM MINISTER (AND LEFTIST) K.D. MALAVIYA TOLD THE GATERING THAT OUTSIDE PRESSURES COULD NOT SWAY INDIA FROM ITS PRESENT FOREIGN POLICY. HE UPHELD THE RIGHT OF THE OPEC COUNTRIES TO EXPLOIT AND SELL THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES AS THEY DEEMED FIT AND SAID THAT THE DEVELOPED STATES SHOULD NOT OBJECT WHEN OIL PRODUCERS PUT UP THEIR PRICES. (ON THIS AME SUBJECT, MRS. GANDHI TOLD THE FORUM THAT COUNTRIES LIKE INDIA BORE THE BRUNT OF THE IMPACT OF HIGHER OIL PRICES. EVERY COUNTRY SUFFERED EXCEPT EUROPE AND AMERICAN WHICH GOT THE MONEY BACK IN THE FORM OF RETURN OF INVESTMENTS AND AS THE PRICE OF ARMS SHIPMENTS.)
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